REMARKS

Claims 11-14 and 31-33 are pending.

Claims 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 591782, as evidenced by EP 708454. The examiner relies on Schultze et al. (U.S. 6,001,464) as an English language equivalent of EP 591782. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Schultze et al. relates to a homogeneous, water-impermeable and respiratory active film consisting of at least two thermoplastic elastomeric resin components which are different from each other. One of said elastomeric resin components is a co-polyetherester elastomer and a second component is a thermoplastic workable segmented polyurethane elastomer. According to the specification, the film matrix may comprise antiblocking agents, which may include inorganic substances such as silicates, silicon dioxide and calcium carbonate (column 4, lines 56 to 61).

The subject matter of presently amended claim 11 differs from the disclosure of Schultze et al. on two points:

First, Schultze et al. uses a different solid. Schultze et al. teaches to use antiblocking agents, which may be an inorganic substance such as silicates, silicon dioxide and calcium carbonate (see above). In example 1 (column 5, lines 19 to 60), Schultze et al. describes a film consisting of a co-polyether-ester elastomer with addition of 20% by weight polyurethane, 0.6% by weight lubricant, 0.08% by weight calcium stearate and 3.5% by weight SiO_2, based on the mixture of components. Therefore, Schultze et al. is silent as to the feature of the present invention that the

solid is *an inorganic Li-ion-containing solid*.

Second, amended claim 11 uses the language "consisting of" such that the claimed composition makes up the entire membrane. Therefore, while the composition may include other components, the membrane must include at least 10 wt% of the solid. Schultze et al.'s membrane only contains 3.5 wt% of silica.

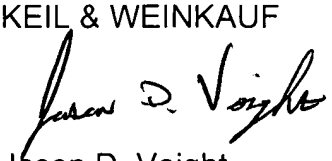
Claims 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 8-59981. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. JP 8-59981 relates to a urethane-based elastomer film having a good moisture permeability and water-proofness, which may be used as a diaper. As may be apparent from the section "constitution" the composition described therein is obtained by blending a filler and polyurethane-based resin composition comprising a thermoplastic polyurethane resin with a soft segment consisting of a polyether and 5 to 25 wt% of an ethylene-propylene-diene copolymer rubber (as solid within the context of the present invention). The solid of the present claims is a Li-ion-conducting solid and not a copolymer of ethylene and propylene.

Claims 11-18 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chang et al. (U.S. 5,346,788). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Chang et al. relates to a battery separator composed of a microporous sheet product having first and second major surfaces and a thickness of less than about 50 mils, formed from a uniform mixture of a thermoplastic polyurethane polymer having a high degree of hard segments with filler. The filler may comprise various oxides, carbonates, minerals and silicates (column 8, lines 34 to 52). In contrast to the presently claimed invention, the

filler according to Chang et al. is not an inorganic Li-ion-conducting solid.

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Respectfully submitted,
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